



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-9947

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

1. Project Title: Park County Rod and Gun Club

2. Type of Proposed Action:

The Park County Rod and Gun Club propose to build a new pistol bay adjacent to the existing pistol bay to help alleviate overcrowding.



Figure 1. Aerial Photo of the Park County Rod and Gun Club Range.

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action:

The Park County Rod and Gun Club is located on 62 acres of leased private land, 3 miles north of Livingston, Montana at 154 Meigs Road, Livingston, Montana 59047; Lat. 45.70048, Long. -110.57487. Section 35, Township 1 South, Range 9 East.

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA 87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) and MCA 87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

To be eligible for grant assistance, a private shooting club or a private organization:

- (a)(i) *Shall accept in its membership any person who holds or is eligible to hold a Montana hunting license and who pays club or organization membership fees;*
- (ii) *May not limit the number of members;*
- (iii) *may charge a membership fee not greater than the per-member share of the club's or organization's reasonable cost of provision of services, including establishment, improvement, and maintenance of shooting facilities and other membership services; and*
- (iv) *shall offer members occasional guest privileges at no cost to the member or invited guest and shall make a reasonable effort to hold a public sight-in day each September, when the general public may use the shooting range for a day-use fee or at no cost; or*
- (b) *Shall admit the general public for a reasonable day-use fee.*

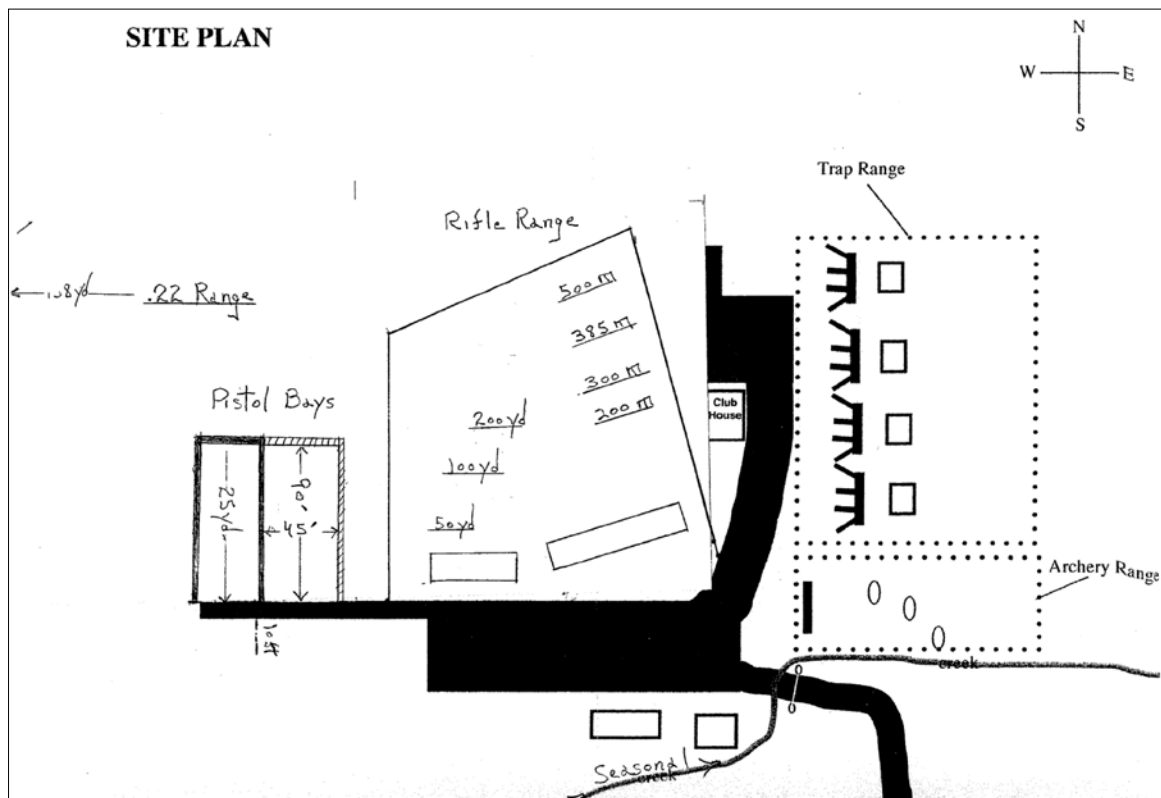


Figure 2. Proposed Site Plan for Park County Rod and Gun Club.

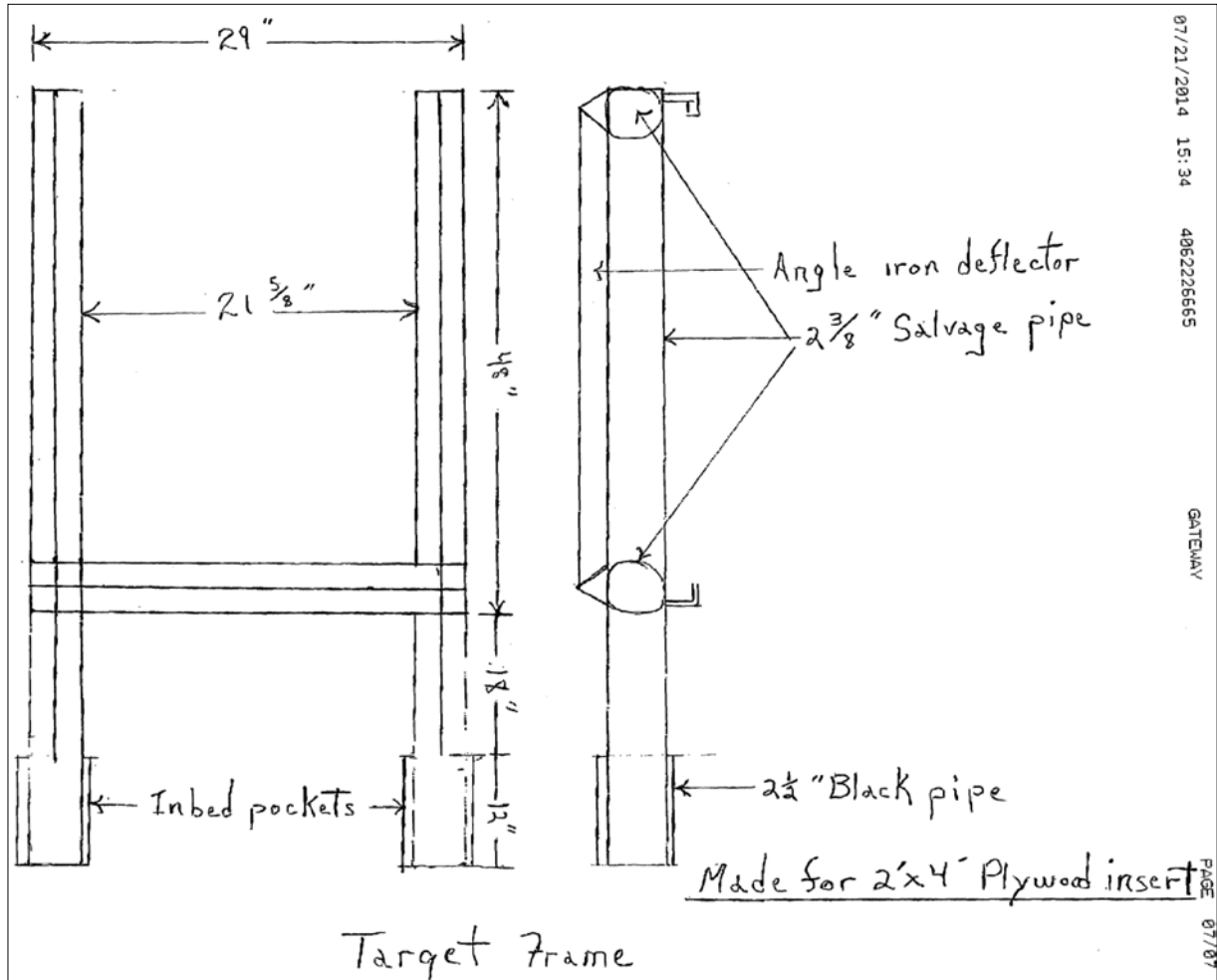


Figure 3. Proposed Target Frame for the Park County Rod and Gun Club.

5. Need for the Action(s):

Due to increased membership, there is considerable overcrowding at the current pistol bay, resulting in longer wait times and increased safety concerns. In order to reduce overcrowding at the pistol bay, the Park County Rod and Gun Club proposes to add one new pistol bay adjoining the current bay. The new bay will reduce waiting times and overcrowding, which will enhance the participants experience and safety concerns due to overcrowding.

6. Objectives for the Action(s):

The objective of the proposed project is to reduce overcrowding at the pistol bay, improve safety, reduce wait times, and improve the quality of experience for the participants by adding a new pistol bay.

7. Project Size: estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

The proposed improvements will cover approximately .25 to .5 acres of the total 62 acres of the Park County Rod and Gun Club.

8. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The property is located on 62 acres of privately owned land. The Park County Rod and Gun Club entered into a 99-year lease with the Kensue Ranch in 1981. There are no permanent surface waters or wetlands on the property. The range offers opportunities for several shooting sports, including rifle, pistol, black powder, shotgun, and archery.

9. Description of Project:

The proposed project includes:

▪ Building one new pistol bay; road mix and new berm.	\$ 6,900
▪ Installing a concrete pad at the shooting lines in the new bay.	\$ 2,025
▪ Fabricating and installing target supports in the pistol bay.	<u>\$ 2,877</u>
▪ Total Budget for the Proposed Project	\$11,802
▪ Total FWP Funding Requested	\$ 5,901
▪ Funding FWP Approved	\$ 5,901

10. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

None

Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
N/A		

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$5,901

11. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:

The Park County Rod and Gun Club Range is a private range for the use of paying members. The range is open to anyone for organized events at no cost other than the event entry fee. The range is also open free to the public for the free sight-in day and for trap shooting every Thursday evening.

Organizations that have used the range in the past include: BPCR; Schuetzen match; Relay for Life Break a Clay; 4H Trap; 4-H Archery; 4_H Muzzle Loading; Archery 3-D; Rifle Hunter Safety Classes; and Bow Hunter Safety Classes.

12. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement:

Because the Park County Rod and Gun Club Range is a private nonprofit shooting range for members, there has been no public involvement in the planning process. Proposed range improvement proposals have been discussed with the club members and the associated project vendors and contractors.

13. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

14. Names, Address, and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Harold Stewart, 406 West Summit Street, Livingston, MT 59047; (406) 222-2115.

15. Other Pertinent Information:

The Park County Rod and Gun Club is a nonprofit private shooting club. The closest range providing similar shooting opportunities is in Logan, Montana, 50 miles west of the Park County Rod and Gun Club Range.

Shooting range applications require the participating governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range-funding assistance. Resolution Date: April 24, 2014.

PART II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

Alternative A, the **Proposed Alternative**, and **Alternative B**, the **No Action Alternative**, were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in Part I, paragraph 9 (Description of Project): to build a new pistol shooting bay adjacent to the existing pistol bay in order to reduce overcrowding, reduce wait times, improve public safety, and improve participant enjoyment. There are beneficial consequences to acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative**.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Range Development Grant money would be denied and the area will remain as an active shooting range without the proposed improvements. The no action alternative would have no significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences. The range will continue on with present conditions. Land use would remain the same.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered. There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent. Neither the proposed alternative nor the no action alternative would have significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

None. Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered. There was no other alternative that were deemed reasonably available, or prudent. Neither the **Proposed Alternative** nor the **No Action Alternative** would have significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

List and explain proposed mitigating measures (stipulations):

None

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmentally sensitive areas.

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		#2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover,						

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		#5
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		#8
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		#9
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

2. & 5. There are no delineated wetlands and no natural water sources within the area proposed for development. No critical wildlife habitat would be affected. Any resident or transient wildlife may leave the immediate area during construction activities.

8. Minor and temporary dust and vehicle emissions would be created by construction equipment during construction of the pistol range. However, the construction time is short and human effects will be limited due to the sparse population in the surrounding area.

9. This project uses no federal funds nor does it take place on state owned or controlled property; therefore, the Federal 106 Regulations and the State Antiques Act do not apply.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		

4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		#5
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		#7
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

5. The proposed expansion of the pistol range would improve the safety for members and the public using the range.

7. The proposed improvements to the Park County Rod and Gun Club range will improve the quality of the shooting sports within the community.

PART IV. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being implemented are already on an existing range/alterd areas that together with the insignificant environmental effects of the proposed action, indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative.

The Park County Rod and Gun Club's proposed alternative, to provide a safe, regulated shooting opportunity, is supported by its members and the public. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for the improvements as outlined in Part I, Paragraph 9.

PART V. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? No

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? Individually, the proposed actions have minor impacts. However, it was determined that there are no significant or potentially significant cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative; therefore, an EIS is not required.

PART VI. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

- Harold Stewart, 406 West Summit Street, Livingston, MT 59047; (406) 222-2115.
- MT Fish Wildlife and Parks

EA prepared by:

Andrea Darling, Darling Natural Resource Consulting, Montana City, MT 59634

Date Completed:

August 20, 2014

Describe public involvement, if any:

This draft EA will be advertised on FWP's web site and through a legal ad in the *Livingston Enterprise, Livingston, MT* announcing a public comment period. A press release will also announce the project and comment period.